Profit/loss Public Sector Units

626. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the units in the public sector under his Ministry put together have shown profit or incurred loss during the last two financial years, year-wise;

(b) the details thereof and what is the expectation for the current year i.e. 1986-87; and

(c) what steps have been taken and are proposed to be taken to improve profitability?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. K. K. TEWARY): (a) The Central Public Enterprises under the Ministry of Industry as on 31-3-86 have made an overall net loss of Rs. 125.90 crores in 1985-86 and Rs. 41.97 crores in 1984-85.

(b) Apart from the targets given in the Performance Budgets 1986-87 of the respective Departments, no realistic expectation for 1986-87 is available as the year has not yet ended.

(c) In general, the steps taken by Government to improve performance of Central Public Enterprises, include *inter alia*, monitoring and periodic review of performance by the administrative Ministries/Departments at very high levels and vigorous follow-up action of decisions taken in such meetings; upgradation of technology; modernisation and rehabilitation of plant and equipment wherever considered necessary; diversification of products; provision of balancing facilities; structural reorganisation involving formation of holding companies; training of personnel; encouragement of labour participation in management and improvement of productivity and efficiency thereby facilitating cost reduction and cost control etc.

Autonomous Regional Election Commission

627. DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI: Will the Minister of Law AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Election Corrission of India have forwarded to the Government any new proposal for Electoral Reforms, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any proposal to appoint autonomous Regional Election Commissioners have been advanced by the Election Commission; and

(c) if so, what is the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes, Sir. A statement summarising the new proposals on electoral reforms is laid on the Table of the House. (*See* below)

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

1. *Reduction in voting age*:

2. Driving away politics those who involve themselves with a motive solely of personal profit and power and attracting to politics those who involve themselves solely with a sense of service.

3. *Issue of Identity cards to voters*:

Multi-purpose identity cards may be useful for other facilities offered by Government, (like ration, health benefits, etc.)

4. *Public financing of elections*:

To deal with the problem of money power, it is necessary to evolve a scheme under which the burden of all legitimate election expenses could be shifted to the State.

5. *Official Machinery for preparation of electoral rolls and conduct of elections in the States*:

It is necessary to create an atmosphere in the electoral machinery that it not only acts in a State of fairness and objectivity, but it is also seen to act so and so acknowledged by the public. Complaints can be reduced by incorporating suitable amendments in the relevant Acts to serve as guidelines.

6. *Multi-Member Commission*:

There is an enabling provision in the Constitution for a multi-member Election Commission. However, this requires examination after taking into account all relevant aspects.

7. *Work relating to keeping of electoral rolls upto date and the conduct of elections*:

The existing arrangement under which there is a part-time Chief Electoral Officer for a State, needs to be looked into afresh. It seems Chief Electoral Officers would be able to attend to their work more effectively if they are whole-time officers.

8. *Voter to link with electoral machinery, State Assembly and Lok Sabha*:

The scheme to achieve the above would involve the constitution of an Advisory Committee at the polling Station level. The members of the Advisory Committee can be associated with the revision of rolls and with the conduct of elections.

Fire works idustry

628. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the fire works continue to be fatal and if so, whether manufacture of such items will be revised as reported in the Times of India of 21st November, 1986; and

(b) whether Government propose to conduct a scientific study to look into the hazards of fire works industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) The fire works which are meant for entertainment and display are not fatal by nature. According to the information available with Government accidents take place mainly because the persons using the fire works do not observe the safety precautions. There is no proposal at present to conduct a scientific study to look into the hazards of the fire works industry. It is expected that by suitable education the public will use the fire works in the proper manner. The Department of Explosives constantly reviews the working of the various fire works items and issues instructions for improvement, whenever considered necessary. It has also asked the various manufacturers to print instructions for safe use of fire works on packets of such fire works themselves. The Department of Explosives has also an office at Sivakasi, the most important manufacturing centre of fire works in the country which not only inspects the units periodically but also carries out random tests of various items manufactured by them to ascertain that proper quality is maintained.

Construction of Lawyers' Chambers in Delhi High Court

629. SHRI JERLIE E. TARIANG: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government received representations demanding the construction of Lawyers' Chambers in Delhi High Court;

(b) if so, whether Government intends to construct Lawyers Chambers in Delhi High Court;

(c) The total number of Delhi High Court Advocates who applied for the allotment of Chambers;

(d) whether it is a fact that the Lawyers' Chamber can be constructed in place of cycle stand in Delhi High Court; and